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Bangalore Mirror

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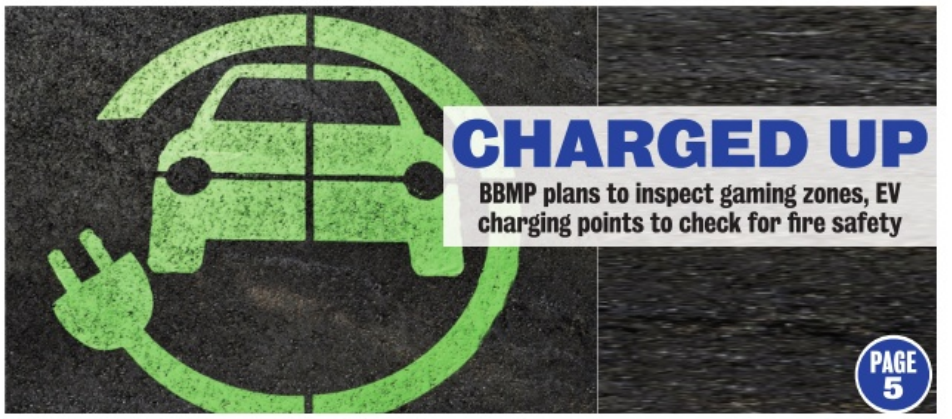
UNCLEAN SWEEP

With garbage collection irregular, black spots rising; BSWML likely to step in

PAGE 4



CHARGED UP

BBMP plans to inspect gaming zones, EV charging points to check for fire safety

PAGE 5

Built-up area in some of the lakes studied has shot up to 60% between 2002 and 2022; Bellandur and Dodda Bommasandra lakes record steep rise

SQUEEZE US, IS THAT A BUFFER ZONE?

Fastest growth has occurred in peripheral areas of city

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A geospatial analysis of buffer zones around various urban, per-urban, and rural lakes in Bengaluru shows that the built-up area in the buffer zones of water bodies is increasing.

Using a 300 m buffer, researchers from the University of Kassel in Germany have found that the built-up area in some of the lakes studied has shot up to 60% between 2002 and 2022.

Moreover, the steepest rise in built-up areas has been recorded in per-urban lakes.

Researchers have analysed buffer zones around six lakes in and around the city. These include Bellandur and Dodda Bommasandra lakes in Bengaluru urban, Attur and Puttenahalli in peri-urban area, and Chudahalli and Vrishabhavathi in Bengaluru rural area.

The land-cover analysis shows that the 300m buffer around Attur, a lake in the peri-urban area of the city, has experienced a steep rise (from 2% in 2004 to 33% in 2014) in the built-up area, which further

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Many lakes in city such as Nallurahalli Lake have dried up

“This location (around Attur lake) is well-connected with accessible rail and metro lines and is close to the major road network of Doddaballapur and Bellary Road that connects to the Kempegowda International Airport

- Research by University of Kassel

Too little, too late

Just like most infra work in city, one year is not enough to even finish half of work on Kempapura Main Road

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Residents of Kempapura, Kuvempu Layout and other areas were delighted when the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Major Roads Department took up the development of Kempapura Main Road. They were happy because they expected the much-needed relief from potholes, craters and water stagnation on that road that is the main link between various layouts in and around Kempapura and Kempegowda Airport Road either to proceed towards Hebbal or Yelahanka.

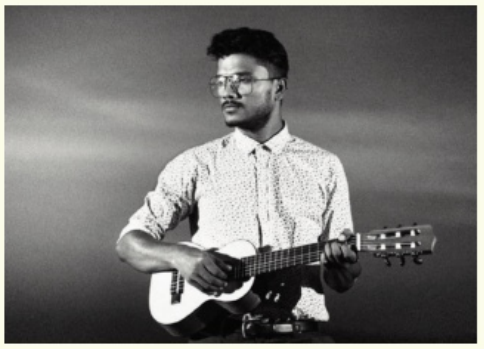
The work began much before the 2023 Karnataka State Assembly election but it remains incomplete even after the new government, led by Siddaramaiah, successfully completed one year in office. The residents complain that incomplete work has become a nuisance for pedestrians and motorists. They demand the BBMP Major Roads Department to take measures to complete the pending works as early as possible.

“Most of the concrete slabs on the roadside drain were in good condition. I do not know why those concrete slabs were replaced with new ones. It looks like a means to make money.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Soulful tunes



Get ready to dive into an unparalleled musical journey as Suzonn, with his soulful tunes, will create a symphony of emotions, leaving an indelible mark on your memories. Prepare to be transported to a realm where melodies weave tales of their own, where each note resonates with the beating heart of Bengaluru's music aficionados. Beyond being a mere concert, this event embodies the celebration of creativity and the pulsating energy of the city's music culture.
Where: Koramangala Social
When: May 30, 8 pm onwards

02 Art exhibit

Immerse yourself in the captivating world of "BIRDSONG" by Manish Chavda and explore the timeless allure of birds and nature through the artist's evocative creations. His artworks delve into our timeless fascination with birds, portraying them as symbols of peace, serenity, and freedom. His pieces transport viewers to a mystical realm,

nestled between reality and imagination, where dreamlike birds and landscapes evoke a profound sense of tranquillity.
Where: KYNKYNY Art Gallery, Infantry Road
When: Until June 14

03 Ninjutsu techniques

Explore martial arts: a holistic practice for life, focusing on awareness, self-control, and adaptability, applicable in daily interactions and self-defence. Come, experience, and learn the Japanese martial art of Ninjutsu. This is an introductory class.
Where: Shoonya, Centre for Art and Somatic Practices
When: June 1, 10 am

Protest over pricey veggies

Members of the Bharathi Nagar Residents Forum staged a protest demonstration against the increasing price of vegetables in Bengaluru on Monday

Sky's the limit for this unusual topper

Despite restrictive social, financial conditions, Ningamma scores 2,348th rank in JEE

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Ningamma is not your usual topper. Born into a not-so-well-to-do family, she did not have the chance to go to a private school. But today, this daughter of a driver and a garment factory worker has achieved the heights of success with a 2,348 ranking in the JEE main examination. Hers is an uncommon achievement, proving that nothing is impossible with focus, dedication, and perseverance.

Now, Ningamma is waiting for a seat at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal, to pursue engineering. With her performance in the examinations, she is confident of getting a seat in the NITK-Surathkal. "I have also scored 95 percentile in the first session and 96 percentile in the second session of JEE Advanced. I want to thank all those who helped and guided me all these years," said Ningamma.

Ningamma's parents migrated to Bengaluru from Yadgir for livelihood and admitted Ningamma to the government school at Chikkabidarakallu, situated on the 8th Mile on Tumakuru Road. "I came into contact with Pramod Kulkarni sir when I was studying eighth grade. He helped me attend the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMS). He arranged online tuition given by volunteers of the Society for Assistance to Children in Difficult Situations. I did not have a mobile phone, so Pramod Kulkarni sir provided me with one mobile phone to enable me to attend the online coaching," said Ningamma.

After scoring 99 per cent scores in the SSLC examinations held in 2022, Ningamma got admission to Deeksha Integrated PU College at Tumakuru. "It is a residential pre-university college. I used to revise lessons for six to seven hours on a daily basis. The atmosphere at Deeksha Integrated PU College has also helped me to focus on revising lessons," she said.

"I want to pursue Indian Administrative Service (IAS) after completing the engineering course at NITK-Surathkal. I am confident of becoming an IAS officer –Ningamma

Ningamma said that her role model is Srusti Jayant Deshmukh, who secured the fifth rank at her first attempt in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) 2018 exam. "I want to pursue Indian Administrative Service (IAS) after completing the engineering course at NITK-Surathkal. I am confident of becoming an IAS officer," she added.

Move towards smoke-free future for youth

In a significant move to curb the rising influence of tobacco marketing on youth, the Consortium of Free Tobacco Karnataka (CFTFK) launched the "Arise Young India" campaign. Timed to coincide with World No Tobacco Day on May 31, this initiative aims to unveil the manipulative strategies employed by tobacco companies to lure young people into smoking.

SJ Chander, the convenor of CFTFK, highlighted the campaign's objectives and said, "The tobacco brands strategically attract the young with design, making them want to try it. We want the youth to know the negative side of tobacco and also aim to eliminate smoking scenes in movies and discourage celebrities from endorsing addictive substances like tobacco, which destroy the future of young minds." The campaign will see participation from 15 universities and many students across India. The department of collegiate education, government of Karnataka, in collaboration with the Foundation of Sustainable Health India and NIMHANS, will extend its reach to over 800 colleges, impacting more than 2,00,000 students. Panel discussions featuring experts will address the topic of protecting children from the tobacco industry's interference. In addition to university outreach, CFTFK will engage over 1,500 schools in Chikkaballapur through a poster campaign designed to raise awareness about tobacco control among younger students.

Eshaan, a student from MICA College of Professional Studies at Mysore University, said, "Despite multiple efforts to convey the message against smoking, the tobacco industry now markets vapes, nicotine pouches, and e-cigarettes as safer alternatives, which appeal to the younger crowd. It is definitely not safe. I am part of this campaign and will share my insights during the webinar on how these companies market new products over traditional ones, falsely portraying them as safer." **–BMB**

Speed-busting pedestrian crossings coming up

Traffic police have identified spots to set up high-rise pedestrian crossings, BBMP to install 200

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Following requests from the Traffic Police, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has planned to install 200 high-rise pedestrian crossings (HRPC) on major roads. The HRPCs will be spread across all the zones of Bengaluru.

The traffic police had reviewed the roads and requested the construction of 247 HRPCs in the city. In a letter addressed to BBMP as of July 2023, they requested BBMP to urgently take works for the construction of medians, skywalks, rumble strips, and HRPCs. As per the list, traffic cops asked BBMP to construct 84 centre medians, 58 skywalks, 235 rumble strips, and 247 HRPCs on an urgent basis.

BBMP officials told BM that the civic body has been taking up works based on requests by BTP.

"We have allocated Rs 11 crore for the construction of HRPCs. While BTP has requested 240-odd locations, based on our budget, we have decided on 200 locations. The tender has been floated and is yet to be finalised," said a senior BBMP official.

"The exercise of thermoplastic and kerb painting should be carried out every year. This painting would allow better visibility for commuters

Additionally, BBMP is taking up thermoplastic painting and will be painting the kerbs too. BBMP will be conducting this exercise across all 470 major roads within its limits.

The project estimated to cost BBMP nearly Rs 8 crore will be implemented under the 15th Finance grants. "The exercise of thermoplastic and kerb painting should be carried out every year. The road painting allows better visibility for commuters," he added.

Effective crossing

Experts say that BEL Road in Bengaluru was the first to get an HRPC 18 years back.

"HRPCs can be very effective in Bengaluru. The first HRPC in the country was implemented on BEL road 18 years back. They can be very effective in reducing the speed of vehicles. Ideally, the speed of vehicles within city limits should be 40 kmph and can be reduced to 20-25 kmph. The HRPC forces vehicles to reduce their speed and slowly climb over them. It can be effective for all types of vehicles including buses. However, the HRPCs must be constructed with the right measurements. Additionally, there should be signboards indicating the presence of HRPCs," civil engineering expert MN Sreehari said.

According to Sreehari, one signboard should be located at 20 metre from the location and another near the HRPC.

8 people served notice in rave party case

Eight people including Telugu actress Hema have been served notice to appear before Bengaluru's Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Monday in connection with a rave party at a farmhouse in Hebbagodi, police officials said.

Police officials said that out of 101 people who took part in the rave party, the report of 86 people came positive for consumption of drugs.

Eight people including actress Hema are suspected of having consumed drugs and bringing in drugs in large quantities to the party, police said.

The CCB has so far served notice to eight people to appear in person before the police and is also slated to serve notice to more people from Tuesday.

Sources said that the CCB is also likely to serve notices to children of some politicians in Andhra Pradesh who were involved in the rave party.

The police have invoked Section 308 of the Indian Penal Code in the case which is triable by the Sessions court.

In the police investigation, it was found that all the invitees to the party were from outside the state and hailed from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry.

A person identified as Vasu had organised the party at GR Farm House which he had booked through his friends. Vasu had sent the location to all the invitees to his party.

Police said that out of 101 people who participated in the rave party, 71 were men and 30 were women. The Hebbagodi police are currently collecting the information of the people who were involved in the rave party.

The CCB Police has presently transferred the case to the Hebbagodi Police. The investigation is continuing under the leadership of Bengaluru Rural SP Mallikarjuna Baladandi. **ANI**

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Dr. Lanny Wilson, Dean of Clinical Sciences
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Garbage forgotten, blackspots on the rise

As BBMP fails to clean up its act, BSWML may take over

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Garbage is accumulated in many parts of the city (file photo)

As Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) is expected to take over solid waste management from Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), blackspots are on the rise. Residents complain of irregular waste collection in different parts of the city, leading to blackspots.

Citizens from various parts of the city are complaining about irregular waste collection by contractors deputed for the task by BBMP. They observe that the issue has been on the rise due to a lack of proper supervision by officials over the past six months. They are getting tired of seeing garbage accumulating in corners as a result of the irregular garbage collection.

"For the past seven days, garbage has not been collected near Old Airport Road. This is leading to the accumulation of garbage in the area," said Lakshminarayan Gundanna, former BBMP corporator.

Another resident from Whitefield noted that irregular garbage collection has been affecting different parts of Mahadevapura.

"There is no regular collection. Both dry and wet waste are not being collected regularly. We are facing issues with auto tippers not coming down every lane and collecting. Blackspots are also on the rise. We are seeing the problem across Mahadevapura," said Anjali Saini of Whitefield Rising.

Garbage collection has been irregular due to a shortage of collection vehicles, say Bellandur residents. "For the 54 blocks in Bellandur, we don't have an adequate number of vehicles. They are still calculating using the 2011 census. Due to this, we are seeing alternate collection on blocks and collection of dry waste twice a week. Additionally, residents don't treat the waste and just dump it in nearby areas during the delay," said Valli, a resident of Bellandur.

> **These mounds of garbage, leftover branches, and other rot are the source of Dengue, Malaria, and Chikungunya, among other viral infections now rearing their ugly heads pre-monsoon** –a letter sent by JP Nagar Residents' Welfare Association

JP Nagar residents say that the issue has been ongoing for the past six months. "There has been an escalation of blackspots across JP Nagar, and there is no supervision of auto tippers. Fallen tree branches are not getting disposed of. The situation has been ongoing for the past six months."

According to the residents that BM spoke to, BBMP officials are saying that a new system is likely to be in place soon. According to sources, BSWML will become a separate entity from BBMP, and the process of shifting resources and responsibilities will be completed by June.

On May 18, 2024, JP Nagar Residents' Welfare Association wrote to the Zonal Commissioner (South) regarding the deplorable state of SWM.

"These mounds of garbage, leftover branches, and other rot are the source of Dengue, Malaria, and Chikungunya, among other viral infections now rearing their ugly heads pre-monsoons. Our health and well-being, quality of life is at serious peril due to your dereliction of duties, which is why the Lokayukta continues its suo-moto investigation in this subject and domain. This has been followed up for nearly two years now, and we intend to escalate this to appellate agencies outside BBMP if an Action Taken Report is not provided in 3 days," stated the letter.

Rumour alert: There's no money waiting at post office

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People gathered at the General Post Office on Raj Bhavan Road

Here is a classic example of gullible people believing or taking rumours spread by politicians seriously. A few political parties, during the canvassing of Lok Sabha elections, have assured voters they would deposit Rs 2,000 in their accounts every month. Some of the politicians, either lacking knowledge or taking advantage of hapless voters, have told them to open an Indian Post Payments Bank (IPPB) account at the General Post Office (GPO) in the city.

This has resulted in an unusual rush at the General Post Office on Raj Bhavan Road. Generally, 50 or 60 people used to open IPPB accounts daily at the GPO before the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections. "Now, more than 700 people have been gathering every day since the end of the first phase of polling for the Lok Sabha elections. We are finding it tough to control the crowd," said Chief Postmaster HM Manjesha.

The Chief Postmaster said that GPO employees have been busy making announcements through the public address system, advising people to visit their nearest Post Office and that there is no need for them to come to the GPO. "We have been trying our best to educate the people, but in vain. We have taken help from the police to ensure people wait in the queue. We have assigned seven of our employees to open IPPB accounts for around 700 people per day. There are occasions where our employees work extra time to ensure all those waiting in the queue go home only after opening their IPPB account," said the Chief Postmaster.

He said that all the Post Offices in Bengaluru have the facility to open IPPB accounts for the public. "I do not know why people from faraway places are coming to the GPO. We cannot refuse to open IPPB accounts if people approach us. It is our duty," he said. He also said the people start gathering at the GPO from 3 am onwards. "We are issuing tokens for 700 people every day. We are trying to educate these people but they are not taking our advice," he said.

Meanwhile, Pushpa from Tannery Road said that she had come all the way to open the account because a politician advised her to open the account at the GPO. "I have been waiting since morning to open an IPPB account. I do not know when the GPO employees will complete the process," said Pushpa.

Parveen, a resident of Kaval Byrasandra, said that she had to return home on Friday without opening the account as there was a long queue. "I expect to open the IPPB account today. I will have to come tomorrow if I fail to open the IPPB account today," said Parveen.

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Perished pavement
Rukmani Colony

The collapsed pavement stones have not been replaced by the BBMP for a long time, posing a significant danger, especially at night. Senior citizens who regularly walk this path are particularly at risk.

Stinky toilets
Ulsoor

The toilets along the lakeside walking path are very stinky and lack water, forcing people to use them in unsanitary conditions. This issue needs to be addressed urgently.

Unhygienic conditions
Kodihalli

Garbage is being dumped on the side of the main road. This creates an unhygienic environment that needs immediate attention.

BBMP now sets eye on EV charging station safety

After Rajkot fire tragedy, Bengaluru authorities initiate rigorous inspections to prevent similar incidents

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

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The Rajkot fire tragedy has prompted authorities to take preventive measures. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has now decided to conduct safety checks not only on gaming zones but also on Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in the city. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath highlighted that a similar incident last year at a restaurant in Koramangala led to a joint survey with the fire department, resulting in many restaurants being temporarily closed until they met safety standards.

"We will conduct thorough inspections of gaming zones with the involvement of fire officers, zonal officials, and health inspectors," Nath said. "Given the potential risk of short circuits at EV charging stations, especially those located in apartment complexes, we will also initiate checks in collaboration with BESCOM and the electrical inspectorate."

Nath pointed out a gap in safety checks, noting that while electrical inspectorate permissions are required during the construction of apartments, no additional permissions are sought when setting up EV charging stations post-construction. "We will start a comprehensive assessment to ensure all EV stations meet safety standards. This proactive approach aims to mitigate risks and enhance overall safety in Bengaluru."

Raghavendra B, an expert, said, "To ensure that EV charging stations within their jurisdiction are short circuit proof, authorities can implement a series of stringent measures and guidelines. Firstly, they should establish clear regulations and standards. This involves creating and enforcing regulations that require all EV charging stations to adhere to international safety standards and regularly updating local electrical codes to include the latest safety requirements for EV charging infrastructure. Authorities should also focus on certification and licensing. Mandating that only certified electricians and technicians can install and maintain EV charging stations, and requiring the use of certified equipment that meets recognised safety standards, will help ensure that installations are carried out correctly and safely."

> **Authorities should conduct regular inspections of EV charging stations to ensure compliance with safety standards and identify potential hazards**
>
> –Harsha Gowda, an expert

Harsha Gowda, another expert, suggested regular inspections and audits are crucial. "Authorities should conduct regular inspections of EV charging stations to ensure compliance with safety standards and identify potential hazards. Implementing random audits can help verify ongoing compliance and prompt maintenance. Additionally, establishing strict maintenance protocols is essential. Station operators should adhere to a strict maintenance schedule, including routine testing of protective devices like circuit breakers and GFCIs. A reporting system for maintenance activities and any incidents related to electrical faults should also be established. Training and education play a vital role in maintaining safety. Authorities should offer training programmes for electricians, station operators, and maintenance personnel on the latest safety protocols and best practices."

He further added that public awareness campaigns can educate users about the importance of using certified EV stations and reporting any issues. Ensuring advanced safety features are incorporated into the stations is another important measure. Authorities should mandate the installation of surge protection devices to guard against voltage spikes, ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to protect against ground faults, and automatic shut-off features to activate in case of fault detection.

"Ensuring the quality of components used in EV stations is high and that they are certified for safety is also crucial," he said.

Sources said that authorities should develop and enforce emergency response plans for incidents involving EV charging stations and ensure rapid response mechanisms are in place to address any electrical faults or incidents promptly.

Is it a panda? Is it a pup? World's rarest, precious dog arrives in city

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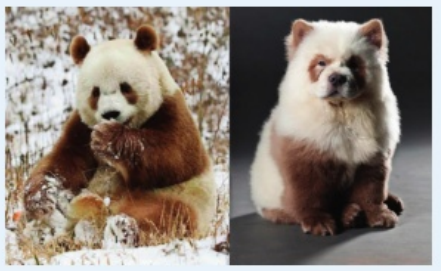

Bengaluru, known for its love of unique and exotic pets, is about to witness a remarkable event today as one of the world's rarest dogs makes its debut. This extraordinary puppy, named Cadabom's Qinling, is a 2.5-month-old Chow Chow imported from China. What sets Qinling apart is his striking resemblance to the rare Qinling panda, a large brown panda native to China, making him a canine of unprecedented uniqueness and value.

Satish, the owner of Cadabom's Kennels and the president of the Indian Dog Breeders Association is the proud owner of Qinling. Valued in crores of rupees, this puppy is described as the first Chow Chow to exhibit the rare brown and white colouration, mimicking the appearance of the elusive Qinling panda.

"There are Chow Chow panda dogs that are black and white in colour, which look like the black and white pandas. However, our Qinling Cadabom looks exactly like the Qinling panda, which is extremely rare. There is no dog in the world that looks like him, and I could challenge anyone to find the same colour and same breed. I am ready to give them Rs 10 lakh as a cash prize. He is the rarest and one of a kind," said Satish.

Acquiring such a rare dog was no small feat. Satish shared that his extensive network of global dealers specialising in rare dog breeds made this possible. "The dog was sent from China 20 days ago, and when I got it, I was amazed to see how it looks," he added.

To celebrate Qinling's arrival, a grand launch event will be held on May 29 at Macaw by Stories. This event is set to be a spectacular affair, akin to a celebrity party. A seven-foot cake will be crafted for the occasion, and numerous celebrities are expected to attend.

"I will be bringing Qinling in a Porsche, followed by 150 bikers on superbikes. It will be a mega gala event to show Bengalureans one of the rarest dogs," Satish added.

Chow Chows, according to the American Kennel Club, typically come in various colours including black, blue, cinnamon, and cream and are known for their dignified, serious-minded, and aloof nature.

'Lodge passenger transport vehicle drivers in safe spaces'

With heavy rain in parts of K'taka, travel operators stress on need to build dormitories for drivers

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A cab goes through a rough patch of road in the Ghats (file photo)

The Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association has urged the state government to ensure that rules are implemented to make sure passenger transport vehicle drivers receive safe accommodation while on work.

K Radhakrishna Holla, addressing the matter on Monday, said, "It is raining heavily in the mountains of Karnataka. The resort owners have to provide safe restaurants and dormitories, to the rental vehicles and drivers, as per the orders of the Central Government. In Tamil Nadu, the Urban Development Department has already issued a circular. Like them, all the five-star hotels in the state of Karnataka should build dormitories for the drivers."

The government of Tamil Nadu in June last year made amendments to the Tamil Nadu Combined Development and Building Rules, 2019, adding the following rule: "In cases of Hotels and Lodges, a dormitory with 1 (one) bed space (with moving area around the bed) for each car parking space required for the guest rooms in such Hotel/Lodge along with 1 (one) separate toilet and 1 (one) separate bathroom for every 8 (eight) beds or part thereof attached to the dormitory shall be provided exclusively to provide accommodation to the drivers of the guests. The dormitory may be provided either within the premises of the hotel or lodge or within a distance of 250 metres radius of the premises."

Parking problem

A rental driver said, "Parking is the main issue. When we are allowed to park inside the premises of the hotel, it is often under an expanse of trees. We are required to sleep within our cars due to lack of accommodation. During harsh weather, if there is a case of tree fall or other instances threatening our safety, who must we hold responsible? While the safety of our vehicles is under risk, our life is also on the line."

Holla added that in compliance with the Central Government's tourism policy, five-star hotels in Karnataka must provide safe accommodations for passenger transport vehicle drivers. "These accomodations should shield from inclement weather, wildlife, and potential hazards like snakes and scorpions. Safety should align with the Urban Development Department's circular issued to hotels and resorts in Tamil Nadu," he explained.

Core breach as resorts & hotels operate close to Kali Tiger Reserve

Activists, wildlife conservationists flag violations, raise concerns, demand probe into matter

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A city-based wildlife conservationist, Giridhar Kulkarni, has written to SK Malkhede, principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) and chief wildlife warden of Karnataka, regarding the issue of illegal resorts, hotels, and lodges mushrooming in the buffer zone of Kali Tiger Reserve (KTR).

According to Kulkarni, several resorts, homestays, and hotels are operating close to the core and critical tiger habitat of the reserve, including Castlerock Wildlife Range, which is notified as Dandeli Sanctuary and is under the administrative control of KTR. This has raised concerns about its impact on wildlife. The letter highlights that the majority of these commercial establishments have come up in the Chavarli, Phansoli, and Virnoli areas, situated within one kilometre from the boundary of the core of KTR. In some cases, resorts and homestays are situated at a distance of not more than 100 metres from the core area.

The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, states that no construction of commercial tourist lodges, hotels, zoos, or safari parks shall be undertaken inside a sanctuary except with the prior approval of the National Board for Wildlife. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) issued guidelines in 2012 for regulating tourism and prohibited the construction of new tourism infrastructure in and around tiger reserves. "Construction of homestays and hotels for tourism purposes within the limits of Phansoli and Castlerock Wildlife Ranges is in clear violation of the above act and NCTA guidelines," said Kulkarni.

> **"It is important to verify whether resorts, hotels have any consent from KSPCB** -Wildlife activist

Other activists and conservationists in the area that BM spoke to shared similar concerns. According to a wildlife activist, many commercial units around the reserve have violated the conditions of homestays. Some of them, the activists allege, are operating without the required permissions. They say it is important that the agencies concerned verify whether the homestays are complying with the conditions laid down. "Some of the homestays have become full-fledged resorts and hotels and have facilities such as swimming pools, extra cottages, etc. They play loud music and keep the lights on overnight. It is important to verify whether they have any consent from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. A lot of waste is being discarded in the area," said a wildlife activist.

Kulkarni, in his letter, has also raised concerns around activities such as birding, trekking to sunset point, lakeside nature walks, road safaris, campfires, etc that need scrutiny as the majority of them are being conducted inside forests.

IN BRIEF

Long-delayed Freedom Park parking facility to open in two months

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has chosen a joint venture between two companies for the operation of the Freedom Park parking facility.

BBMP sources disclosed that they awarded the tender for the operation of the facility as a joint venture. In March, the facility showcased a board stating the operation and maintenance were handed over to PrinceRoyal Parking Solution Business Pvt Ltd. "The Freedom Park multi-level parking facility will be open to the public within two months. We have finalised the contract as a joint venture between PrinceRoyal Parking Solution Business Pvt Ltd and Omnitech. They will be required to pay 17.5 crore over 10 years. For the first five years, the contractor will be required to pay 1.5 crore, irrespective of whether they conduct business or not. Failure to meet the contract requirement would lead to the cancellation of the tender. In return, they will be required to manage smart parking, similar to services provided in malls," said a senior BBMP official. Once the parking facility is operational, BBMP plans on implementing a no-parking rule for 20 roads within the radius of the facility. "The rule has existed since 2019 but has not been implemented. Once we open the facility to the public, 20 roads within a 1.5–2 km radius will be declared no parking zones," he added.

Built at the cost of Rs 80 crore, the multi-level parking facility has been idle since 2021. Once operational, it will be able to house 550 four-wheelers and 450 two-wheelers.

—Melvin Mathew

BM Trippin' Tales

Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary: Haven for new winged visitors

The Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Srirangapatna taluk, Mandya district, is alive with the sounds of new bird arrivals. Known for its diverse avian population, the sanctuary has recently welcomed approximately 4,500 to 5,000 birds from species such as the Spoonbill, Pelican, Open Bill Stork, Painted Stork, and Spot Bill Pelican. This influx makes the sanctuary an ideal destination for birdwatchers.

Located 4.5 kilometres from Srirangapatna and 18.5 kilometres from Mysuru, Ranganathittu has become a significant stopover for migratory birds. The newly arrived birds are busy building nests and laying eggs, contributing to the sanctuary's vibrant ecosystem. In addition to the recent arrivals, the sanctuary hosts a lot of bird species. These birds are also in their breeding season, filling the sanctuary with their lively sounds and movements.

File photo of Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary

Weekends and government holidays are the best times to visit. The sanctuary's popularity is reflected in its revenue, which reached Rs six crore in the 2023–24 financial year, with Rs 60 lakh collected in April alone. Entry fees are Rs 75 for Indians and Rs 500 for foreigners, and boat rides are available for Rs 100 per person. Puttamadegowda, the Deputy Range Forest Officer (DRFO) of the sanctuary, said that Ranganathittu is home to over 20 bird species, with the new arrivals enhancing its appeal. He emphasised that the sanctuary is a paradise for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts and assured that the department is committed to preserving this vital habitat and its residents.

Tourist surge in Hampi with the onset of monsoon

Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, experienced a lull in tourist activity during the summer, but the arrival of the rainy season has rejuvenated the historic destination. As the monsoons begin, tourists who had previously avoided the heat are now flocking to Hampi in large numbers.

Over the past decade, Hampi has seen a significant decline in tourist arrivals, reaching its lowest point in recent years. This decline worried locals who rely on tourism for their livelihoods. However, the monsoon has revitalised Hampi's struggling tourism industry. Hotel owners, auto drivers, tourist guides, and small business owners, who had been adversely affected by the downturn in tourism, are now experiencing a surge in business. The rain has not only cooled the temperatures but also brought a fresh vibrancy to Hampi, attracting many visitors eager to explore its historic treasures.

Tourist guides, in particular, are relieved by the influx of visitors. After facing financial difficulties due to the lack of tourists, they are now busy once again, sharing Hampi's rich history with eager guests. The site is bustling with tourists, and the local economy is seeing a much-needed boost. The seasonal rains have proven to be a turning point, bringing both relief and renewed enthusiasm to the tourism sector and the local community.

—Sridhar Vivan

I will be back, appear before SIT on May 31, says Prajwal

Days after former PM Deve Gowda issued stern warning to grandson, MP accused in sexual assault case, speaks up

From left: Mamatha Yajman, from Gamana Mahila Samuha, Akkai Padmashali, from All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), Maitreyi Krishnan, from All India Progressive Women's Association (AIPWA), Malike, from Jan Shakti and Vimala KS, of Naveddu Niladiddare came together to express solidarity with "Namma nadige, Haasanada Kadege" the Justice March to Hassan, that will be held on May 30 in Bengaluru, demanding the arrest of Prajwal Revanna (inset)

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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Prajwal Revanna, Lok Sabha election candidate from Hassan constituency, who fled to Germany last month following serious allegations of sexual misconduct, issued a statement on Monday saying that he would return to the country on May 31. He claimed that comments and political maneuvers by opposition figures, including Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, pushed him into depression and isolation.

Prajwal expressed regret to his parents, citing his depression as the reason for his departure. He assured that he would return to India and appear before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on May 31. He pledged full cooperation with the investigation, expressing confidence in the legal system and his belief that he would be exonerated. Prajwal also mentioned the support he has from God and his family.

On May 1, four days after leaving the country, Prajwal posted on X, stating he was not in Bengaluru and had communicated with the police through his lawyer, insisting that the truth would soon emerge.

Prajwal, a Janata Dal (Secular) leader and the grandson of party patriarch and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, and nephew of former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy, currently serves as the MP for Hassan Lok Sabha seat. He is slated to defend this seat in the 2024 general elections, with the JD(S) being allied with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP.

Prajwal's statement, his first public comment regarding the charges, followed a stern warning from Deve Gowda, who urged his grandson to return and surrender or face the family's wrath. Deve Gowda mentioned that he had advised Prajwal against testing his patience and that it took him time to come to terms with the distressing news. The former Prime Minister, who has been criticised by the ruling Congress and former political allies over accusations that he facilitated Prajwal's departure, insisted on the strictest legal punishment for his grandson if found guilty.

Reacting to the statement, Home Minister G Parameshwara said, "As soon as Prajwal comes, he will be arrested. The warrant has already been issued, and the blue corner notice has been sent. The SIT will take further action."

The Home Minister clarified that the process of arresting someone from another country is not easy. "There are diplomatic and legal procedures to be followed. We have to request the Central Government to cancel the diplomatic passport issued to him. We can't simply go to another country and arrest him. We have to follow the legal process." The SIT has been formed to investigate the case, and the Home Minister assured that further action will be taken as per the law.

> **"As soon as Prajwal comes, he will be arrested. A warrant has been issued, and the blue corner notice has been sent**
>
> –G Parameshwara, Home Minister

Passengers in distress after flight glitch

A technical glitch that grounded Alliance Air flight 91527 from Bengaluru o Vidyanagar left passengers stranded without and help for over two hours.

The flight was set to take off from Kempegowda International Airport at 2:40 pm on Monday. But there was roughly a two-hour-long delay before boarding finally began at around 4.45 pm. The airline managed to board the passengers on the scheduled time, however they were left waiting on the runway for nearly an hour and a half.

One of the passengers on the flight, George, who frequently flies this route with the airlines, said, "This has happened with Alliance Air earlier as well, a technical issue may be expected every time with a minimum delay of 40 minutes.This may be expected as it is a smaller aircraft, but today's experience was something I've never experienced before, it is unacceptable."

He stated that the passengers were made to wait in the buses that transported them from the runway onto the terminal, with no explanations or communication from the airline. They were only given water, but no refreshment or beverages even after boarding the flight. Upon boarding, the passengers were made to wait for another half an hour, during which the air conditioning was barely functioning. The overall situation left passengers flustered, uncomfortable and annoyed.

Another passenger on the flight, Periasamy Murugasan said, "If they were aware that there was a technical issue, they should have let us wait comfortably at the terminal itself. There were elderly passengers present too, such issues are unwarranted. By the end, passengers were afraid." He added, "As a mechanical engineer, I could sense there was an issue with the flight; upon boarding there was an oily smell, air conditioners barely functioned and strange noises were heard. They should take care of the aircraft, attend to all the issues and make sure it is fit to fly. Passengers' safety should be considered."

— Ankita Govind

Slammed at using security firm to hire teachers, BBMP defends move

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Despite flak from social and child rights activists for engaging security agencies to recruit teachers for schools and colleges maintained by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) last year, the civic body has once again engaged a similar agency to hire teachers for the West Zone.

The BBMP's decision to engage Sharp Watch Investigation Security Services Pvt Ltd, a firm specialised in security services, has invited criticism. "It is not a security agency's job to recruit teachers. The BBMP Chief Commissioner must select a qualified agency for this job. Security agencies have no expertise in selecting teachers," said Nagasimha G Rao, Director of Child Rights Trust.

Expressing surprise over the BBMP's action, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights chairman K Naganna Gowda said he would write a letter to the BBMP Chief Commissioner to select a suitable agency for the recruitment of teachers. "No qualified person will approach a security agency for a job," said Gowda.

Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar said that he has brought this to the notice of Deputy Chief Minister and the BBMP Chief Commissioner. "The Deputy Chief Minister was surprised when I brought it to his notice six months ago. The process of engaging security agencies for recruiting teachers was put on hold. Now, the BBMP is going ahead with its plan. The BBMP is playing with the future of children from lower middle-class families. They must cancel the contract," said Kumar.

However, the BBMP Special Commissioner (Education) Preeti Gehlot said the BBMP did not engage a security agency but an agency that provides manpower on an outsourced basis. "It may be teachers, data entry operators, housekeeping or security staff as well in the BBMP, shortage of teachers is being fulfilled by taking the additional resources on outsourced basis since 2007. The same agency has been helping us recruit teachers for more than 15 years," said Gehlot.

> **"Teachers are taken on board for BBMP schools as per the Government of Karnataka guidelines**
>
> –Preeti Gehlot, BBMP

She said that all across the country, there are not many agencies that have expertise in the education field. "Teachers are taken on board for BBMP schools as per the Government of Karnataka guidelines. A screening committee was constituted last year under the chairmanship of Special Commissioner (Education) to ensure that no ineligible teacher was deployed for teaching students last year," she said.

K'taka govt to pay Rs 80 lakh hotel bill of PM Modi's stay in Mysuru: Minister

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Monday said the state government will pay the hospitality bill of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had come to Mysuru in April last year to commemorate 50 years of Project Tiger, which runs up to Rs 80 lakh.

In a statement, the minister's office said it is a tradition of the state government to host dignitaries like the Prime Minister and the President when they come.

But due to Assembly elections in Karnataka in April last year, the state government was not involved in planning of the programme (Project Tiger) since the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) was in force.

Speaking to reporters, the minister said that the prime minister had visited Myrusu-Bandipur on the eve of commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger. At that point of time, the MCC was in force. Elections were declared. So, it was purely a Central government programme.

Initially, they had planned to spend around Rs 3 crore but the expenditure incurred was around 6.33 crore. So, balance 3.3 crore has to come from the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

"The state government's forest department had written to them (authority). They informed that the hotel bill (Rs 80 lakh) should be reimbursed by the state government and we have decided to reimburse. So, there is no issue," he added.

Following media reports that the hotel where the prime minister had stayed has threatened to find legal recourse to recover his dues, Khandre had on Saturday said that he will try to resolve the issue amicably. **PTI**

Steepest rise in built-up areas recorded in peri-urban lakes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

increased to 38% in 2021.

"This location is well-connected with easily accessible rail and metro lines and is close to the major road network of Doddaballapur and Bellary Road that connects to the Kempegowda International Airport. This confirms earlier reports that Bengaluru's growth pattern is polycentric and the fastest growth has occurred in multiple peripheral areas," noted the study published in Environmental Challenges journal.

Power station, BMTC depot and more

The other per-urban lake - Puttenahalli - recorded a consistent increase of about 5% in the built-up area in each time interval. Researchers noted that the waterbody, primarily surrounded by commercial buildings and residential layouts, has a depot by Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) in the buffer zone along with a power station in the north-eastern part of the buffer area by Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL), leading to a consistent slow growth in built-up area.

Dodda Bommasandra, one of the two urban lakes studied, recorded the highest share of built-up area within the buffer zone. In 2004, while built-up structures covered 47% of the total buffer area, it reached 60% in 2014 with little change until 2022.

In the case of Bellandur Lake, the built-up area within the 300m buffer zone has increased from 13% in 2005 to 23% in 2013, before decreasing to 15% in 2020.

A rapid increase in built-up area from 6.5% to 16.0% from 2015 to 2019 was detected in Vrishabhavathi, a waterbody located in a rural area.

According to researchers, the increase in built-up areas around Vrishabhavathi can be attributed to the development of engineering colleges and residential layouts in the area.

In contrast, the built-up area around Chudahalli Lake remained constant throughout the study.

Men (not) at work on Kempapura Main Road

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The new government is celebrating its one-year anniversary but the road work is yet to be completed," said Selwyn Mascarenhas, a resident of Kempapura.

He said the incomplete and substandard quality of road works would convey a wrong message to the students of two schools situated on this road.

Worried about the work remaining incomplete even during monsoon, Shankar Gowda, president, Kuvempu Layout Welfare Association, said the BBMP has concretised the road but not filled gaps between the road and footpath. "It will be tough for two-wheeler riders and motorists to commute on this road during the peak hours in monsoon. Two-wheeler riders are vulnerable to accidents if the pending works are not completed," said Gowda.

Ramaiah HC, honorary president of Kuvempu Layout Welfare Association said that one of the residents of Kempapura shared a video showing how dirty water, released into the drain on Kempegowda Airport Main Road, was entering drains on Kempapura Main Road. "We are displeased with the progress of the developmental works on Kempapura Main Road. A stretch of the roadside drain, that doubles as a drain and footpath, is not covered with concrete slabs," said Ramaiah.

BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer (Major Roads) told BM the contractor has completed only 45 percent of the developmental works on Kempapura Main Road. "We have issued three notices to the contractor directing him to complete the pending works. The contractor is out of funds to complete the pending works.

"Most of the concrete slabs on the roadside drain were in good condition. I do not know why those concrete slabs were replaced with new ones

We cannot release funds to the contractor till he completes the pending works. We are waiting for a reply from them and will take a decision on engaging another contractor based on the reply," said the BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer.

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I, SHRINY JOHANNA, R/aNo.34, 4th Blk, 2nd Mn, 5th Crs, Munishwara Layout, Doddabommasandra,Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru560097. Have Changed MyName To SHRINY JOHANNA.Vide Afft Date:27/5/2024.Sworn Before Notary: Devaraja.E

I Karthika Mohan \ Karthika M W/O, Amit Thachat Menon R/o A Block 0530 Fourth Floor Hebron Avenue, Hebron Enclave Road, Halehalli, Po: Krishnarajapuram, Dist: Bengaluru, Karnataka 560036 have changed my name to Karthika Amit.

I Ramesh Kumar Manmal Jain S/O, Manmalji Jain R/o 51, 105 Ambience Platinum Kr Road Basavangudi Bangalore 560004 have changed my name to Ramesh Kumar for all purposes. for all future purposes.

I, Mohammed Areiff S/o ibrahim Sab R/o # 55/5 7th A main Rd BTM layout 1st stage Gurappan palyan B'lore-560029 have changed my name to Mohammed Ariff.

I Sheik Baba Zareena Begum W/O, Shaik Baba R/o No 3 (145) 1st Floor Vinayaka Temple Road 1st Cross Mukthi Nagar K G Halli Bangalore 560045 have changed my name to Zareena Begum.

I, Sachin Prakash Mehta S/o Prakash A Mehta R/o Apartment 121, Pratham Indraprastha Apartments, 2nd Floor,1st Block Rk Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore 560022 have changed my name to Sachin P Mehta for all purposes.

I Nagesha N S S/o N V Subbarayappa, R/o No E141, Nagenahalli, Singanayakanahalli Post, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064.Have Changed my name from Nagesha N S to Nagesh N S for all purposes.

I, Brunda d/o Thipregowda R/o G-03 1st A Main Sector-6 HSR Layout B'luru-560102 have changed my name to Brunda Thipregowda Sowbhagya for all purposes.

I Digambar Rao, R/o #306, MVS Annex, Sri Sai Saran L/o, Kommasandra, 11th Crs, Anantha Nagar, Phs-1, Bengaluru. Karnataka-560100, have changed my name to Digambar Rao K Joshi

I Munikrishnappa R/o No 87, Nagenahalli, Singanayakanahalli Post, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064.Have Changed my name from Munikrishnappa To Munikrishna for all purposes.

I, Tabrez Pasha S/o Anwar Khan R/o No.107, TCM Rayan road, Chalavadipalya, 5th cross, Bengaluru 560053 have changed my name to Tabrez Khan Affidavit Dt.27/05/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Rina Nayak W/o Alok Prakash Patel R/o #150 9th Main 6th Cross NIT Layout Vidyaranyapura B'lore-560097 have changed my name to Rina Patel for all purposes.

I,KANDULA N Malleswari Tirumalaiah W/o Ganta Srinivas Ram Reddy R/o #A-909, Uber Nerdant-2 Sarjapura Main Road janatha Colony Doddakannahalli B'lore-560035 have changed my name to G N Malleswari Reddy for all purposes.

I, MUNIRAJ.S R/O No 4/1-1,Pushpa Residency,1st Cross,Mathikere BLR-54 changed my name MUNIRAJA to MUNIRAJ. S for all future purposes

I, Sumaiya nayeem subhan W/o Nayeem subhan R/o Flat.AP2, Vajram Essenza, Thanisandra main Rd, Hegde nagar, B'luru 560064 have changed my name to Sumaiya nayeem Affidavit Dt.27/05/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

LOST & FOUND

LOST DOCUMENT

Chamraj.K S/O Krishnappa 39 Years Old R@ Abbigirihosahalli, Kasaba Hobali, Bangarapet Taluk, Permanent Residence Of Above Village, Property No. 56-516-518 belonging to Municipal Account No. 8002/86 belonging to Malur Taluk, Malur Town, Lakshmi Barangay bearing East-West= 30 feet, North-South- East 20 feet, West 30 feet in my name Chamaraj.K. Dated: 04-05-2017 No No: 803/2017-18, CD No. The sale deed was registered by MLRD 148 And the deed of sale was registered in the name of Muninanjappa on 15-05-2007 as Registration No. 812/2007-08, CD No. MLRD 28, and the original copies of both these Deeds were lost dated 01-03-2024 at Bangarapet Taluk, Budikote village. I have filed a complaint about this on 21-03-2024 in KGF Police Station under Last Report No. 0983754/2024. If anyone gets the said document, send it to the above address or 9980429308.

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HEALTH TIP: Walnuts are an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids and offer other heart-healthy fats, protein, fiber, and vitamins (including vitamin B6)

Broad beans and French beans are high in fibre which is important for our gut health

HAIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

All you need to know about excessive facial hair

You may maintain a strict beauty regimen, but there's one thing that just refuses to be controlled. We are talking about unwanted facial hair. Sometimes we suffer from excessive growth and we find ourselves at a loss as to how to get rid of the facial hair permanently (usually coarse and dark).

Causes Of Facial Hair

Generally speaking, hirsutism is attributed to a surplus of male hormones called androgens. Hormonal imbalance is often blamed for this kind of hair growth.

The other causes include congenital adrenal hyperplasia (a hereditary medical condition that affects adrenal glands), obesity or rapid weight gain and intake of anabolic steroids that are normally consumed by people who want to build muscles.

But PCOS (polycystic ovary syndrome) is said to be the most common cause of excessive hair growth on your face or on other parts of your body.

Tip: Before you opt for any extended treatment against facial hair, know what is causing you the problem. That can help you in chalking out a strategy for getting rid of facial hair permanently.

Excessive Facial Hair

First things first; you need to know what hirsutism entails. Hirsutism is nothing but excessive hair growth on your face or on other parts of your body. Generally, it affects women; studies show that one in 14 women has hirsutism. You can have excessive hirsutism if the growth of hair is thick and black, and not fine and thin.

Sometimes, the concomitant symptoms of hirsutism may include erratic menstruation, oily skin and pimples. The first step to dealing with hirsutism is consulting a doctor who may ask you to undergo several medical tests to check what's causing hirsutism in the first place. Knowing the degree of hirsutism will help you plan how to get rid of facial hair permanently.

Tip: Consult a doctor to know the degree of hirsutism you are suffering from.

Medical Conditions

If you have a medical condition that is leading to excessive hair growth, you should make all the effort to contain the disease first. Studies show that PCOS accounts for about 72 to 82 percent of excessive hair growth cases. So, if you have been diagnosed with PCOS, you should deal with the problem on a war footing. There are several ways the medical condition can be addressed.

If you are overweight and have been diagnosed with PCOS, losing weight by adopting a healthy lifestyle can help regularise your menstrual cycle. Experts say that losing weight reduces your insulin levels, resulting in lower testosterone levels, which in turn not only improves fertility but also reduces visible symptoms such as excessive hair growth and acne.

Oral contraceptive pills are widely prescribed for PCOS. Apart from this, hormone medications to reduce testosterone and stimulate ovulation and drugs, such as metformin, to treat diabetes are also prescribed. Surgery to remove large cysts and destroy the tissue that produces androgens is usually considered the last option.

Tip: Exercise, eat healthily and fight obesity to control PCOS problems.

20 Home remedies that may help

Instead of harsh chemical measures against facial hair, these simple but effective home remedies can certainly help you get rid of facial hair permanently:

1 Chickpea Flour Mask
In a bowl, mix half a cup of chickpea flour, 2 tsp of turmeric powder, half a tsp of fresh cream and half a cup of milk to form a paste. Apply to the area where hair growth is quite visible and wait for 20-30 minutes. Rub gently in the opposite direction of hair growth and rinse with lukewarm water. For best results, use this pack at least twice a week.

2 Papaya and Turmeric Mask
In a bowl, mix 2 tbsp of papaya paste, ½ tsp of turmeric powder and 5 tbsp of aloe vera gel to form a paste. Apply the paste to the area showing unwanted hair growth. Leave it on for 20 minutes until dry. Remove this by rubbing in the opposite direction of the hair growth.

3 Gram Flour and Rose Water
Take 3 tbsp of green gram flour, one tbsp of rose water and one tsp of lemon juice and mix them well in a bowl. Apply to the areas where the hair growth is most visible. Wait for 30 minutes or so or until it's completely dry. Rub the mask off in circular motions.

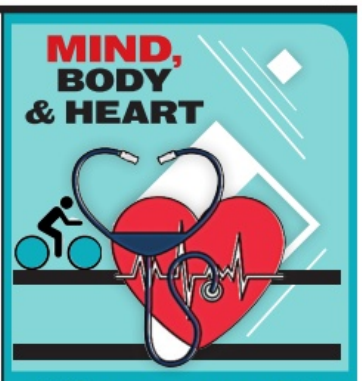
4 Honey Lemon Mask
Mix the juice of an entire lemon with half a tbsp of honey to form a smooth paste. Apply the mixture to the affected area and leave it on for 20-25 minutes. This will help lighten the unwanted hair as lemon has bleaching properties.

5 Banana and Oatmeal Scrub
Mix one mashed banana with three teaspoons of oatmeal in a bowl. Massage it onto your face for 15-20 minutes in circular motions and wash it off with water. For best results, use the mask twice a week.

6 Rice Flour, Turmeric and Milk
Take 3 tbsp of rice flour, one tbsp of turmeric powder and 2 tbsp of milk. Mix all the ingredients together. Add water, if necessary. Apply this mask to affected areas and wait for 30 minutes. Once it's completely dry, wash it off with lukewarm water.

7 Rose Water, Olive Oil and Alum
Take a little bit of alum, one tbsp of rose water and one tbsp of olive oil. Mix all – make sure that alum (turn it into a powder) dissolves in the rose water. Apply to affected areas with a cotton ball. Wait till it dries off completely. Apply another layer and wait until dry. Repeat this 6 times. Wash off and hydrate the skin with a moisturiser or a few drops of olive oil.

—Femina



All you need to know about...

Food for weight loss

Ghee And Coconut Oil
Rich in medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), ghee and coconut oil are unexpected weight loss allies. With their ability to increase metabolism, promote fullness, and aid in food absorption, these healthy fats provide a special benefit for long-term weight loss.

Quinoa
Widely regarded as a superfood, quinoa is high in protein and fibre, both of which help you feel full. Including quinoa in your meals will help control appetite and reduce cravings, which can ultimately aid in weight loss management and achieve the goal of healthy eating.

Greek Yoghurt And Homemade Curd
Packed with nutrients, this creamy treat is not only a delicious snack; the protein and probiotic bacteria found in yoghurt help with digestion and increase feelings of fullness, which means you'll eat less during the day. Yoghurt also helps in maintaining gut health.

Chia Seeds
Chia seeds are quite small but loaded with nutrients that are helpful for weight management. Chia seeds are packed with fibre and omega-3 fatty acids, which support a healthy metabolism and encourage a feeling of fullness. Chia seeds are a great way to manage blood sugar levels and reduce appetite.

Lentils
Lentils are a nutritional powerhouse since they are high in protein and fibre. Lentils are a great complement to any weight loss meal plan since they stimulate feelings of fullness and help balance blood sugar levels.

Apple Cider Vinegar
Apple cider vinegar has also been connected to reduced body weight. A tiny amount of apple cider vinegar taken prior to meals might help regulate hunger and facilitate digestion and good absorption and also maintain blood sugar levels.

Nutritionist
Dr Rohini Patil, Femina

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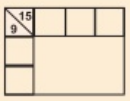
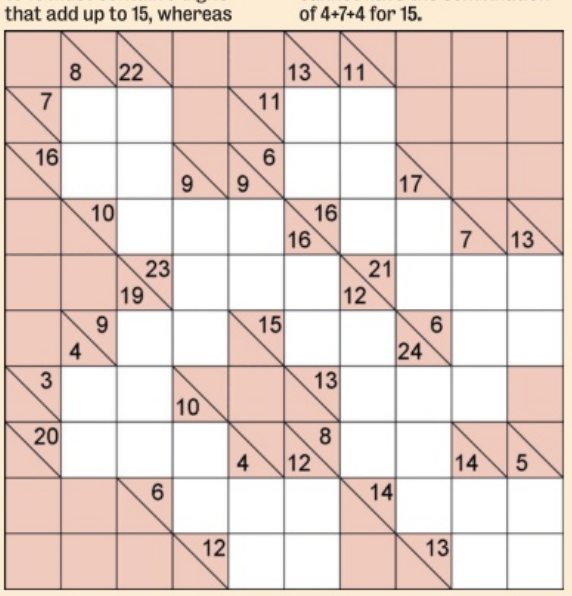
Kakuro

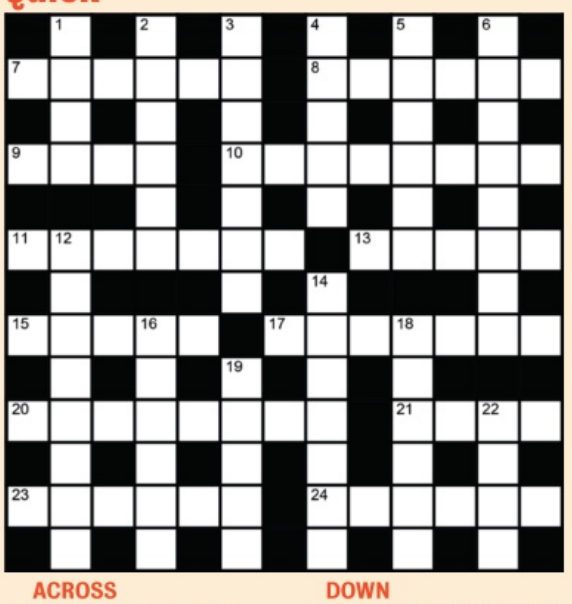
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Vote, choice or poll (6)
8 Our city is located in this plateau (6)
9 Hollywood star ___ Gyllenhaal (4)
10 Absolutely by oneself, solitary (3,5)
11 Of the stomach (7)
13 Unanimously (2,3)
15 Remove feathers (5)
17 Coniferous tree–a symbol of mourning? (7)
20 Tell __ _ _____ : keep a secret very well, in a way? (3,1,4)
21 Twofold (4)
23 Galahad or Gawain, for two (6)
24 Portions (6)

DOWN

1 Indian monarch or king (4)
2 Most senior (6)
3 Patron saint of Wales? (2,5)
4 Mature person (5)
5 Weighing machine (6)
6 Net income (8)
12 Complete or competent on every side (3-5)
14 Bike rider (7)
16 Accusation (6)
18 It enrages bulls (3,3)
19 Value (5)
22 It fits to _ ___ : it fits perfectly? (1,3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS S

EJZBJAAORS OA YGJ OSFHOIO-YP YR DRSAYBKDY F MKYKBJ.

Linemaro

Can you kiss me on the cheek so I can at least say a cute girl kissed me tonight?

Mindchow

Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it

Joke of the day

If you were going to shoot a mime, would you use a silencer?

Loop

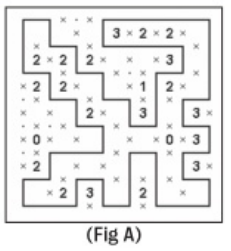
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

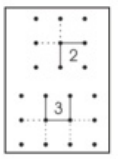
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

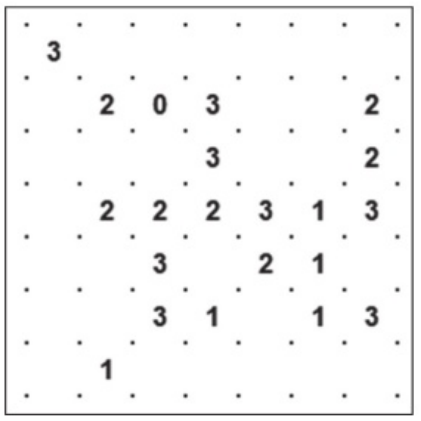
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



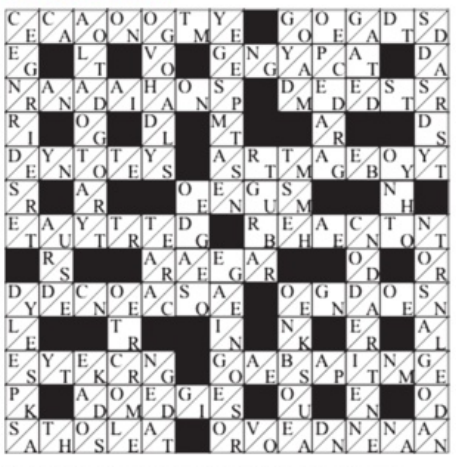
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



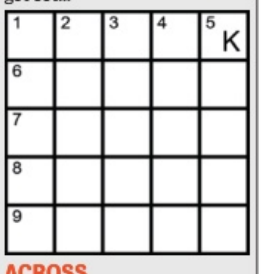
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

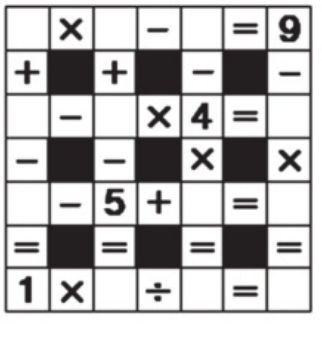
1 Back A; 6 Aural; 7 RY ire; 8 Tours; 9 Stump

DOWN

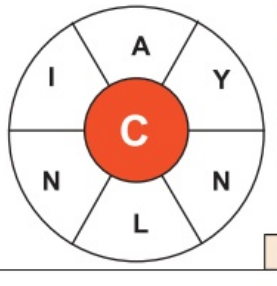
1 Later; 2 A buoy; 3 Ruma U; 4 Scrip; 5 Stark

Mensapuzzle

Insert numbers into the remaining blank squares so that the sums in each line and column are correct. All numbers to be inserted are less than 10.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

					7		6	
7	5	4					1	3
6								4
5	6		4					8
	7		6		8		5	
1					9		7	6
9								5
3	2					9	8	1
	8		2					

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 13

5 8 8 8

Medium = 29

3 3 8 8

Hard = 28

2 3 5 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

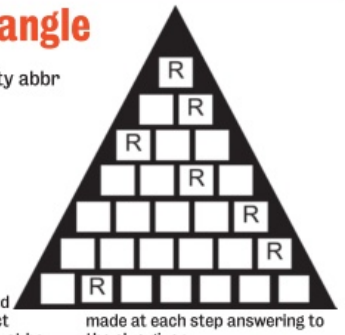
Differences: 1. Cap is larger. 2. Flag is moved. 3. Foot is moved. 4. Putter is moved. 5. Pocket on side of bag is missing. 6. Arm is moved.

Riddler

If HONE becomes JANUARY, what month does STEN become when that same transformation is applied?

Alpha triangle

1 Right letter
2 Augmented Reality abbr
3 Managed
4 Gain by work
5 Ire
6 Fisherman
7 Argue peevishly



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

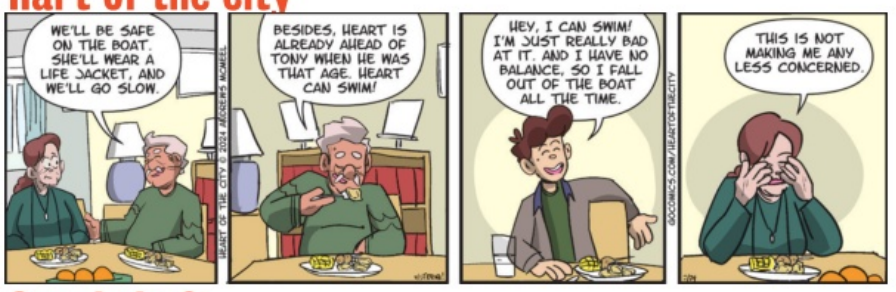
COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city



Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your communication skills may help you on a professional front. You may likely be more polite with everyone around you, which may help you speed up your projects. Lovebirds may be likely to exchange their views with each other, which may lay the foundation of their relationship.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and your energy level is likely to be high. A new partnership may give you benefits. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay off in terms of financial gains. Self-respect may protect you from the negative people around you.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel dull and unhappy. You are advised to avoid having harsh conversations with friends and family members. You may also not be able to get proper reciprocation for your hard work. You need to follow your intuition. It is advised to keep your patience while making important decisions.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, new sources of income are likely to be opened. Your past investments may give you a good profit, which will boost your bank balance. You may want to connect with a social organisation, which will increase your network. Singles may find a soulmate in terms of marriage.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, blessings from elders may make you confident. You can follow your intuition before taking any initiatives that may help you at work, as it may help you gain more in terms of finances. You are likely to visit some religious place with your family members. You must control your arrogance to enjoy your domestic life.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may expect some instant gains in your business, which may boost your confidence level as well as your bank balance. It is advised to avoid stress in domestic life. There would be some momentum on the business and work fronts. Your prestige may be increased. You may also plan for an overseas trip.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, things would not be favourable. You may feel dull and unhappy. Some mysterious fear may make you upset, and you are likely to be attracted to the occult. You may feel a lack of confidence, which may affect your work. It is advised to avoid rush driving and risky adventure tours.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of your professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff may be likely to support you.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be able to make a balance between your earnings and expenses, which may boost your bank balance. You may likely perform better in your job. Your boss can give you new responsibilities in terms of promotions. You may get back your money, which was previously stuck.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel dull due to sleeplessness. You may be scattered towards your goals, which may affect your working efficiency. You may plan to visit a religious place. But in the late evening, you may be blessed by your elders; you may find out your mistakes and make a good plan for the coming day.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be in a hurry, so you are advised to drive safely. But with the blessing of the elders, you may come out of this messy situation. You are likely to be more romantic, which may increase harmony in your domestic life. You may expect some positive results in new partnerships. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your subordinate staff may be cooperative, which may help you complete postponed projects. You are likely to join some social events, which may boost your network and help you in your work or social life. You may plan to go on an outing with friends. Some disputes with friends may be settled now.

KIDZONE

Harsha DA, 14 years, MEG High School

Kaveri Sriram, 9 years, Valistus International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(4^2) / (125^(2/3)) / 128^(3/7) / (5^2)
[(2^4) / (5^2)] * [(5^2) /2^3)]
2^4 / 2^3
2^4 / (1/(2^3)) = 16 / 8 = 2

BULL'S EYE
CANNILY, canny, clan, clay, lacy

RIDDLER
October. Remove the H that begins the first word, to get a number, then take the month corresponding to that number.

FAST FIVE

A	B	A	C	K
L	A	U	R	A
E	Y	R	I	R
R	O	U	S	T
T	U	M	P	S

STRIKE OUT

S	T	O	L	A	■	R	O	E	D	E	A	N	■	■
■	■	■	A	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	T	E	R	N	■	G	A	S	P	I	N	G	■	■
E	■	■	R	■	I	■	N	■	E	■	A	■	■	■
D	E	C	E	A	S	E	■	E	N	D	O	N	■	■
R	■	■	R	A	G	A	■	O	■	■	O	■	■	■
T	A	T	T	E	D	■	B	E	A	C	O	N	■	■
S	■	A	■	O	N	U	S	■	H	■	■	■	■	■
E	Y	O	T	S	■	A	T	T	A	B	O	Y	■	■
I	■	G	■	L	■	M	■	R	■	S	■	■	■	■
R	A	D	I	A	N	S	■	M	E	E	T	S	■	■
E	■	L	■	V	■	E	G	Y	P	T	A	■	■	■
E	C	O	N	O	M	Y	■	G	O	A	D	S	■	■

QUICK

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MENSA PUZZLE

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

QUOTE UNCODE
Depression is the inability to construct a future.

1	×	6	÷	3	=	2	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
=	■	=	■	=	■	=	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
6	−	5	+	1	=	2	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
−	■	−	■	×	■	×	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
5	−	3	×	4	=	8	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
+	■	+	■	−	■	−	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
2	×	8	−	7	=	2	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

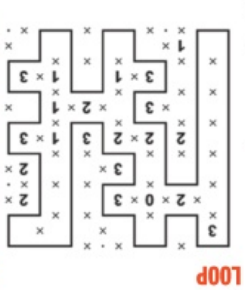
SUDOKU

8	9	1	3	4	7	5	6	2
7	5	4	9	6	2	8	1	3
6	3	2	1	8	5	7	9	4
5	6	9	4	7	3	1	2	8
2	7	3	6	1	8	4	5	9
1	4	8	5	2	9	3	7	6
9	1	7	8	3	6	2	4	5
3	2	6	7	5	4	9	8	1
4	8	5	2	9	1	6	3	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Ar, Ran, Earn, Anger, Angler, Wrangle.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 8 + 5 − 8 = 13
Medium
3 x 8 − 3 + 8 = 29
Hard
3 x 2 x 5 − 2 = 28

LOOP



KAKURO

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Her mom's favourite place

Janhvi was in Chennai and made it a point to go to temple Sridevi used to visit

Janhvi Kapoor is gearing up for the release of her movie, 'Mr and Mrs Mahi' which sees her opposite

Rajkummar Rao. The actress was in Chennai to attend the IPL Finals 2024 along with her co-star. But Janhvi made sure to go her mother Sridevi's favourite place in Chennai. The actress visited the Muppathamman temple for the first time ahead of the release of her movie.

Janhvi channeled her desi side as she was dressed in a white floral print lehenga choli. She dropped pictures and wrote, "Visited Muppathamman temple for the first time mummas most favourite place to visit in Chennai."

Fans of Sridevi showered immense love on this post and loved Janhvi for imbibing her mother's roots. One user said, "Just like Shree Devi mam... beauty with brain... " Another user wrote, "Sridevi's love for Chennai in general is unmatched anywhere in the world, whoever knows Sridevi well knows this. Chennai has always been her home and the place where she feels most relaxed and safe."

Janhvi had recently revealed in an interview that she has become more religious and also superstitious after her mom's death. Janhvi is often seen visiting the Tirupati Balaji temple and showing her love for the south culture.

But when in Chennai, how can one miss out on the yummy south Indian food? The actress also relished a south Indian meal in the city.

'Mr and Mrs Mahi' is set to release on May 31.

— ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

First song released

The first song of Kannada movie Sambhavami Yuge Yuge was released by actress Sruthi Hariharan at a function recently. The song – Dolu Tamate Vadya – is sung by Nakash and Sparsha while Puran Shettigar has composed music. The movie is bankrolled by Prathibha under the banner Rajalakshmi Entertainment.

Director Chetan Chandrashekhar Shetty thanked producer Prathibha for giving him the chance to direct this movie. "Sambhavami Yuge Yuge is a commercial thriller with a rural background. The movie revolves around youths from villages who migrate to cities for jobs. It is scheduled for release on June 21," said the director.

Jay Shetty, who plays the lead, thanked the producer and director for the chance. "I play a youngster who wants to do something for his hometown and becomes village panchayat president," said Shetty. Nisha Rajput is paired opposite Shetty. "I have been modeling for 9 years. I had an ambition of acting in a Kannada movie," she said.

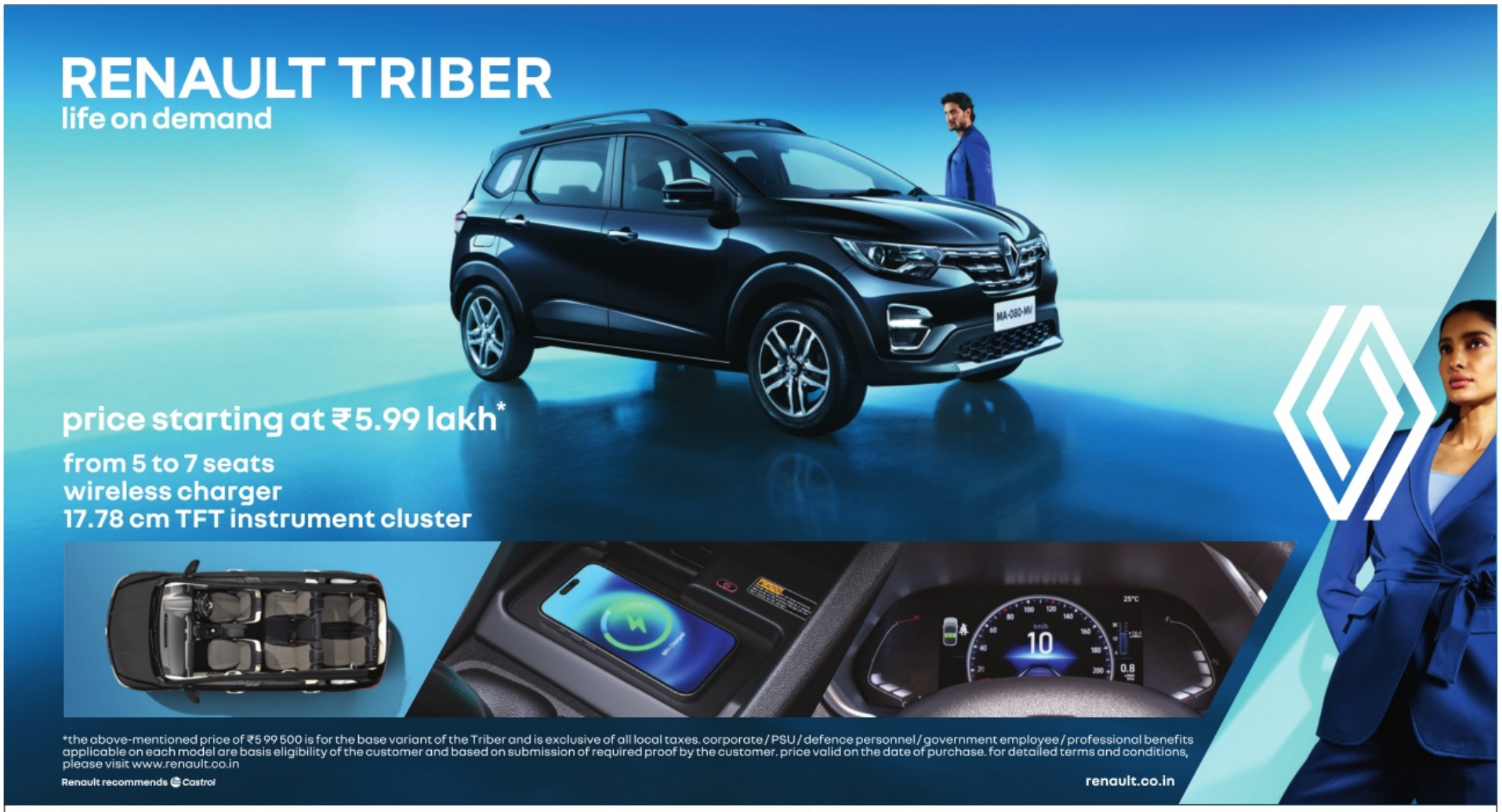
Chilli Chicken teaser

Director Prateek Prajosh is excited about his latest movie Chilli Chicken that is scheduled for release next month. Its teaser was released at Renukamba Preview Theater recently. The movie is bankrolled by Deep Bhimajiyani and Sudha Nambiar under the Metanoia Studios banner.

The story revolves around five youths from North India, who come to Bengaluru to work at a Chinese restaurant and what happens to them when they decide to open a hotel on their own.

"The climax of the movie is what happens to the five young people and what incident comes in their way. I decided to bankroll the movie because of its story. As of now, we made this movie in Kannada only and are planning to release it next month," said Bhimajiyani, one of the producers. The movie features an ensemble of cast and crew from different states. "The actors are from Manipur, Meghalaya and Chennai while the director is from Kerala and the producer is from Gujarat," he said.

Director Prateek Prajosh said that he has worked for Hindi, Malayalam, Gujarati movies and also directed some short films. "An incident took place at Frazer Town, which is the inspiration for me to write the script for this movie," said Prajosh.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wireless charger
17.78 cm TFT instrument cluster
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